

medical decisions and that we don't resort to unnecessary litigation.

Republicans have also supported the patient protections which included the emergency room issue and access to specialist issues Mr. GORE mentioned. We have basic bipartisan agreement on these issues and could easily have such legislation alone.

Let's look at the remaining disagreements. The White House and the trial lawyers want uncapped liability and litigation. Employers around the country are opposed to these features of Norwood-Dingell because they would increase litigation, drive up costs, and would force many employers to drop health insurance. That is the opposite of what we want.

We are also concerned about interfering with State patient protection programs. We need to make sure that States can implement their own programs where they want to without federal interference and disruption to programs that are already in place. Norwood-Dingell does not address this problem and places a huge implementation burden on the Federal government. We need to find a middle road on this.

Finally, we cannot understand the failure of the White House and Democrat leadership to support provisions which provide choice, access and tax deductions to help increase the number of people with health insurance. There are over 40 million uninsured people in America. The Republican-led Congress has passed serious proposals to address this problem and they are being ignored by the White House.

When Democrats sent a letter to Senator NICKLES in early summer saying that they would no longer meet with him in private conference, that was not a good sign. Obviously, you can't negotiate through the press and you can't negotiate if you do not meet.

The plain fact is that the Republican-led Congresses have been energetic, productive, and responsible on public health. The many bipartisan accomplishments are a tribute to both Democrat and Republicans. We have enacted legislation that improves Americans' access to quality health care. Under our proposals, our country's commitment to basic medical research has been expanded and our promises to provide high quality to seniors and the most vulnerable in our society kept. Distortion of this record is not helpful and will only risk jeopardizing future gains.

NATIONAL LUPUS AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Lupus is a chronic, autoimmune disease which causes inflammation of various parts of the body.

Lupus is not rare. In fact, it is more prevalent than AIDS, sickle cell anemia, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and cystic fibrosis combined. Lupus affects 1 out of 185 Americans, and almost 30% of the Lupus cases in Florida are found within my South Florida region.

This month we celebrate National Lupus Awareness Month.

And, I congratulate The Lupus Foundation of America for its work on patient education, and dedication to raise funds for research.

I especially congratulate J. Reeve Bright, Chairman of the Board of the Lupus Foundation of America and President of the Southeast Florida region; Jack McAllister, the Executive Director; Jackie Brown, and all who helped arrange an educational symposium in my district this month.

The House passed a bill that provides research and services to fight Lupus. As a cosponsor, I thank my dear colleague, Congresswoman CARRIE MEEK, for the Lupus legislation and for her dedication in seeing it through.

This represented a great victory in women's health care, and it is our wish that this triumph will generate countless benefits for American men and women who suffer from Lupus.

CHINA AND PNTR: SUCCESS STORIES NEEDED

HON. EVA M. CLAYTON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, one of the truly momentous decisions reached by this Congress was to approve Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China. Supporters of PNTR worked very hard to achieve this outcome, which held out so much promise for the development of stronger trade and business ties between China and the United States. Now, the major challenge facing both countries will be to show positive results that justify such extraordinary efforts and faith in the future.

Like many of my colleagues, I voted for PNTR and view with hope the potential for mutual benefits. For that reason, it concerns me to learn of examples where American companies have encountered unexpected difficulties in trying to do business in China. One such distressing case of which I am aware involves Panda Energy. Panda is a Dallas-headquartered company with a significant gas-fired cogeneration power plant located in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina, within my Congressional district. Based upon an earlier agreement reached with the local Chinese government, in 1995, Panda began construction of a major, private, foreign-invested plant near Tangshan in Hebei Province. Unfortunately, while that facility is now completed and ready to commence generating electricity, it is still not operational. Why? Because the local government has failed to honor its agreement to grant a reasonable tariff computed on a negotiated formula. The situation is even more complicated and troubling in its implications, because construction of the facility was financed through the U.S. capital markets in good faith reliance on this agreement. Unless a fair tariff is granted soon, the bonds are in danger of default, putting at financial risk not only the investors but also the company.

Mr. Speaker, Panda's experience in China is disappointing and contrary to the spirit of PNTR. Therefore, I would urge the Beijing government and its Ambassador to the U.S., His Excellency Li Zhao Xing, to review this situation carefully and do everything possible to find a fair and workable solution. It is not too late to avoid an unnecessarily negative precedent that could undermine high hopes raised by passage of the PNTR legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, on October 28, 2000, I was unavoidably absent when the House voted on "Approving the Journal", H.J. Res. 118, "Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001", and two Motions to Instruct on H.R. 4577.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on "Approving the Journal" (rollcall vote 570), "aye" on H.J. Res. 118 (rollcall vote 571), "nay" on the first motion to instruct conferees (rollcall vote 572), and "nay" on the second motion to instruct conferees (rollcall vote 573).

On October 29, 2000, I was also unavoidably absent when the House voted on "Approving the Journal" H.J. Res. 119 "Further Continuing Appropriations for FY 2001", and a Motion to Instruct on H.R. 4577.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on "Approving the Journal" (rollcall vote 574), "aye" on H.J. Res. 119 (rollcall vote 575) and "nay" on the motion to instruct conferees (rollcall vote 576).

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF DR. NINO CAMARDESE AND MEMBERS OF THE OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO INSTILL A SENSE OF CITIZENSHIP IN OHIO'S YOUTH

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 30, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize the efforts of Dr. Nino Camardese of Norwalk, Ohio and a bipartisan group of State Representatives in the Ohio general Assembly. Recently, legislation was introduced in the Ohio General Assembly that calls for a "bill of Responsibilities" which outlines a student's civic responsibility to the state of Ohio and the Nation to be posted in each school. This Bill of Responsibilities was developed by Dr. Nino Camardese, a family physician in Norwalk, Ohio. Dr. Camardese recognized that there is a definitive correlation between freedom and responsibility. He also noted that many schoolchildren overlook this fact.

Dr. Camardese, with the assistance of leaders and educators at a Freedom Forum conference, drafted the Bill of Responsibilities, which seeks to remind students that citizenship is an essential part of liberty. The bill reinforces the fact that students must be good citizens, responsible not only to themselves, but to others as well.

Recently, several members of the Ohio General Assembly drafted a resolution that would post the Bill of Responsibilities in each classroom across Ohio. I would like to honor the efforts of Representatives Bill Taylor, Dixie Allen, Sylvester Patton and Ron Young, and recognize the leadership they demonstrated in introducing this important legislation in Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Camardese and these Representatives have taken a monumental step to stop the downward spiral of violence,